

St. John's Journal

Fall 2026



Kim Kylo
Senior Pastor



Nathan Lyke
Associate
Pastor

Sunday Schedule

8:30am Worship/Communion
10:00am Worship/Communion

Nursery every Sunday from 8:30-11:00am

Starting September 6

8:30am Worship/Communion
9:30 Fellowship/Education Hour
10:30am Worship/Communion

Nursery every Sunday from 8:30-11:30am

More information is available on the
website: www.sjlcl.org

**Submit information for the
Winter issue by the
30th of October to:
candy@sjlcl.org**



20165 Heath Ave. Lakeville MN
952-469-4916



Mr. Rogers'
Crayon Factory Tour

Dear St. John's,

A distinct scent that always reminds me of the transition from summer to fall is the waxy smell of a fresh box of crayons. In ancient times—before schools could instantaneously contact families electronically, and abysmal report cards could be intercepted in the mailbox with a little luck—I remember the excitement, apprehension, and smells of walking back into school to meet my teacher for the year and drop off my elementary school supplies.

In middle school, that era of deep self-confidence and non-awkwardness (I'm being sarcastic), I prepared to navigate multiple floors of the school, open my locker with enough time to swim like a trout upstream to my next class, and dodge my way through the proverbial mystery-bag assortment of adolescent fellow students.

By high school, the finish line was in sight. New school, new me! Every fall became a time of self-reinvention for me as an American teen. No more yellow school bus for this young man—I'd hitch a ride or drive my own so I could be seen in the parking lot, or perhaps more importantly, not seen on the bus. I just needed to walk across that stage when my name was called, grab that diploma, swing my tassel, and I was certain it would be smooth sailing from there.

Much to my surprise, report cards and school supplies were replaced with utility bills and trips to the hardware or auto parts store for some emergency repair. Dodging classmates became dodging traffic and unnecessary drama. And the desire to be seen became the desire to see who I really was when my life was no longer for credit. It had become an independent study course for the rest of my life.

As I approach 25 years since graduating this upcoming spring, one word has made all the difference in helping me navigate life after grade school: neighbors. The literal neighbors who've helped me repair my air conditioner or install brakes. The neighbors who sat next to me in film school and seminary and taught me that learning is a lifelong quest. And the neighbors here at St. John's—those I've served alongside on both sides of this planet—who care for me and warmly, sincerely ask how my time away was when I've been gone for a Sunday.

How about you? What neighbors have come alongside you as you've made your way through life? And have you yourself been the neighbor who pitches in when another neighbor is in need? This fall, we will be exploring— with the help of a beloved Presbyterian minister named Fred Rogers and an ancient carpenter from the plains of Galilee who is reported to still be at work in the world— what it means to be a neighbor. In the classroom, the lunchroom, the living room, the board room, the waiting room, the hospital room, or the neighborhood. Won't you be my neighbor. I'm looking forward to being yours.

– Pastor Nathan

P.S. You can watch Mister Rogers tour the crayon factory [here](#) or with the QR code on the left.

For Your Information

Fall Worship News

**As a faith community rooted in Lutheran theology and identity, we are gathered for sacramental worship. This means that either a baptism or holy communion will be celebrated at every worship service.*

Fall Sermon Series:

"Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Sermon Series:
September 13 - October 4

Fred Rogers (yes, as in Mr. Rogers from PBS) was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. In celebration of his legacy, this series is a reflection and a call to action for how we serve our neighbors.

Restorative Worship - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, starting September 16

Join us for Restorative Worship for a time of community, peace, pause, and joy on Wednesdays. This is a 30-minute worship has an intentional, casual feel, providing a alternate option for worship. The abbreviated format, often with tactile elements and a tag-team sermon between our pastors, has become a great opportunity for connection for youth and families participating in Wednesday night ministries, as well as for Sunday morning worshippers looking for a mid-week boost!

Worship Highlights for September

Sunday, September 6 - Worship Schedule 8:30 & 10:30 am begins. Final Summer Sermon Series Sunday: **Proclaiming Good News**
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to proclaim good news." - Luke 4:18-19.
Wednesday, September 9 - *Blessing of the Animals* + *Affirm/Ablaze Leader Training*
Sunday, September 13 - Rally Sunday! "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" 4-week sermon series begins
Wednesday, September 16 - *Restorative Worship Resumes + Meals Begin!*
Sunday, September 20 - "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" + Sunday School Begins
Wednesday, September 23 - *Restorative Worship*
Sunday, September 27 - "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" + Get Involved Sunday
Wednesday, September 30 - *Restorative Worship*

Worship Highlights for October

Sunday, October 4 - "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" + Stewardship Appeal Theme Announced; Preschoolers Receive Bibles
Wednesday, October 7 - *Restorative Worship*
Sunday, October 11 - Stewardship Appeal Temple Talk 1 + 3rd Graders Lead the Lord's Prayer
Wednesday, October 14 - **NO Restorative Worship (MEA)**
Sunday, October 18 - Stewardship Appeal Continues (MEA Weekend)
Wednesday, October 21 - *Restorative Worship*
Sunday, October 25 - Reformation Sunday + Stewardship Appeal Temple Talk 2
Wednesday, October 28 - *Restorative Worship*

Worship Highlights for November

Sunday, November 1 - All Saints Sunday + Stewardship Appeal Temple Talk 3
Wednesday, November 4 - *Restorative Worship*
Sunday, November 8 - Stewardship Appeal Commitment Sunday + 4th Graders Lead the Apostles Creed
Wednesday, November 11 - *Restorative Worship*
Sunday, November 15 - Stewardship Celebration Sunday + Welcome Lunch
Wednesday, November 18 - *Restorative Worship*
Sunday, November 22 - New Member Welcome Sunday + Intergenerational Advent Festival
Tuesday, November 24 - *Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Mercy Road Church*
Sunday, November 29 - First Sunday of Advent

Altar Echo Podcasts

Did you know St. John's creates a weekly podcast? All podcast episodes can be found on St. John's Facebook page and website. Use the QR code for each podcast to access the podcast page, and subscribe to receive new episodes of each!

Altar Echo Text Study Podcast

is our weekly deep-dive conversation between three or four pastors on the upcoming focus reading for Sunday. Episodes are released on Tuesday afternoons, and can be a great way to pique your curiosity about the upcoming Sunday's Scripture reading. Because this podcast includes multiple pastors, you get added content of multiple perspectives, questions, and ideas, many of which don't make the cut for the actual Sunday sermon.



Altar Echo Text Study

Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Tuesday, November 24th, 7 pm

Join us for a community worship service, as we gather with neighbors throughout Lakeville to give thanks for God's many blessings. This year, Mercy Road church will host. Participating churches include: All Saints, Family of Christ, Mercy Road, and St. John's.

Everyday Bible Conversations (EBC's)

Join us as we find God EVERYWHERE!

Every week, we look for God in our Everyday Lives with a video and devotions based on the week's Gospel, wherever we happen to be. We've found God in the hilltops above Lisbon, Portugal, at the American Revolution in Boston, MA, in the desert in California, on the shores of the Cook Inlet in Anchorage, AK, and every place and week in between!

Our weekly messages include a 3-5 minute video (available on St. John's YouTube channel, and through the website and app), as well as a one page devotional that summarizes the reading, asks a few questions, and encourages an action step for the week to come. The videos and devotional are both built so that they can be used alone or together, and while the Bible reading is always encouraged, no advance Bible reading or knowledge is needed to enjoy EBC.

EBC emphasizes Jesus' love, God's purpose for us, and how we can relate the week's message to our lives in 2026. EBC is a work of joy and love, driven by the faithful belief that the Bible can be applied to our Everyday Lives all things big and small, all the time, everywhere!

Thank you for all of you who already make EBC a part of their week, and we encourage everyone to enjoy! If you would like to access EBC, but need help, please ask Candy in the church office. And let's go find God!

Worship at Highview Hills Meets Once/Quarter

St. John's leads worship at Highview Hills as part of a regular rotation with pastors from Christiania Lutheran and Hosanna Church. These worship services are held once every month, on Wednesdays at 2 pm, coordinated by Chaplain Grace Koleszek. The dates are included in the residents' calendar. **Wednesday, August 12th** at 2 pm is St. John's next time leading worship here!

Worship at Winsor Plaza Meets the 1st Thursday/month at 2 pm

St. John's hosts a monthly worship service with Holy Communion in the community room at Winsor Plaza, held on the first Thursday of each month at 2 pm. This fall, we'll gather: **September 3rd, October 1st, & November 5th**. Come join us for worship!

Worship at Kingsley Shores, with Pastor Andy Meets 3rd Thursdays at 11 am

Join friends at Kingsley Shores for worship with holy communion. This fall, worship will meet **September 17th, October 15th & November 19th**.

Worship at the Moments Memory Care and Enhanced Assisted Living

St. John's hosts worship services with Holy Communion. Come join us for worship!

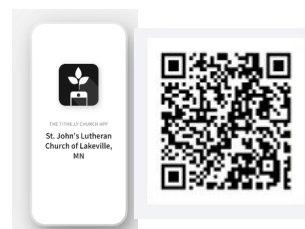
Dates for October and December:

Wednesday, October 7th at 11:00am

Wednesday, December 9th at 11:00am

Download St. John's App

St. John's App is a great way to access information, give online, access weekly EBC and podcast resources, and more.



Caring Calls and Conversation (CCC) Ministry

St. John's has a great team of trained volunteers to provide spiritual and emotional support for individuals who are homebound or living in assisted living facilities, through both community and individual visits. In addition to the community opportunities described below, worship services are periodically coordinated with Fairfield Terrace and Highview Hills as well. If you or someone you know may be a good recipient for CCC support, please contact Lynn Coldren or the church office.



4th Annual Pastor's Picnic at the Kylo's

Join us on **Sunday, August 16th** from noon-2 pm for a congregational picnic lunch, with fun for the whole family - including a bounce house for our littles! Pulled pork sandwiches, sweet corn and beverages will be provided. Families are welcome but not required to bring either a side dish or a dessert to share. We will certainly have tables and chairs set up for eating, but feel free to bring lawn chairs along as well. Stay RSVP with this QR code or call the church office.



Worship Helpers and More Ways to Get Involved

We are so thankful to have many volunteers to serve in worship and in other areas at St. John's. It takes many volunteers to support the worship services. Some of the roles available are: readers, communion assistants, ushers, worship coordinators, clickers and running the sound and livestream during worship. We need helpers in these areas weekly, all year around so you have many opportunities to serve!

Outside of worship times, volunteers are needed to assist as Vacation Bible School teachers and leaders, chaperones for youth trips, serving in-home communion, serving coffee on Sunday mornings, quilting, card making, and the list goes on.

Please consider how you can support worship and ministries at St. John's. Maybe you are willing to try something new or have an idea for a new small group. Please sign up on one of the options below or contact Candy in the church office (candy@sjlcl.org) and she will help you find the spot that works for you.



Readers



Clicker
Team



Worship
Coordinator

Fall Adult Bible Study 2026

Two Times Available: 2 pm Mondays
or 7 pm Wednesdays

September 14/16, 21/23/ 28/30 & October 5/7
In Bible study, we will continue to reflect on and discuss more in depth the weekly themes of our Sunday "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" series. The bible study texts will be the same selections from the Gospel of Matthew reading each week and is a great way to grow from the series with the help of your neighbors at the table!

Cost: Free

Bring: Your Bible:

Register with [this QR code](#) or call the church office:



ACE (Adult Christian Education) Sneak Preview!

9:35-10:15 am | Select Sundays | Sanctuary

Mark your calendars!

2026:

September 20,
October 4, 11, 25,
November 1, 8,
December 20

2027:

January 10, 17, 7, 14, 21, 28,
March 7, 14,
April 4, 25,
May 16

Get ready for some insightful presentations, topics, and special guests. Stay late or come early to church to learn about the St. John's Blue Zone Health Project, more "Theology of..." presentations, a look at Martin Luther, hear about the ministries at St. John's, and some special topics that are timely. No registration required, and ACE sessions are streamed live and available to watch later on our YouTube channel.



Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry

Connect. Grow. Belong.



St. John's offers a variety of small groups to include people of all walks, ages, and experiences of life. Check out our current small group offerings and consider getting connected with one or more of these vibrant spaces of relationship and faith.



Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Begins weekly from 7 - 8 am starting September 15, 2026 | St. John's Conference Room or Zoom

This fall, we'll continue our study of the Gospel of Luke, specifically moving into the miracles, ministry, and teachings of Jesus. Coffee is provided, and participants are encouraged to bring a bible of their choice and a snack to share if so moved. Scan the QR code for the [Zoom Link](#):



"More Than Just Lunch" Small Group

Facilitator: Ginger Gustafson

Meets: Once/month

Where: A variety of locations, each to be announced in advance.

More Than Just Lunch is doing something a little different in August. On **August 19th** we will be traveling to Lanesboro to take a bus tour of some of the Amish farms in the area. On the tour we will have insight into the everyday practices of the Amish families. The tour is at 10:00am which means leaving the church at 7:30am. The cost of the tour is \$30. The bus can only accommodate 11. When we arrive back in Lanesboro we will have lunch at Home Sweet Home. Watch for more outings in the weekly eblast and the Sunday bulletins.

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Facilitators: Pastor Kim Kylo & Colleen Dupre

Meets: Once/month, 10 - 11 am on the 2nd Thursday of each month

Where: Highview Hills

Right now, millions of Americans face the devastation of Alzheimer's. The disease is robbing us of our families, our futures, and our finances. If you are a family member or caregiver to someone experiencing Alzheimer's disease, join us for this small group, where you'll find an open environment for sharing feelings, thoughts, and experiences to better cope with and manage the shared problems of dementia. St. John's and Highview Hills are partnering to provide emotional, social, and educational support to caregivers. This group is open to anyone in our community. No RSVP; simply show up as you are available.

Paper Crafters Small Group

Facilitator: Jackie Knauf

Meets: 1st Thursday of each month from 9am - 2pm

Where: St. John's

The Paper Crafters Small Group makes cards to send to congregation members.

Quilters Small Group

Facilitator: Ruth Weber

Meets: 2nd & 3rd Thursday of every month at 9am

Where: St. John's

The Quilters Small Group sews and assembles quilts to be donated.

Stitchers Small Group

Facilitator: Kathy Ziller

Meets: 4th Thursdays of every month at 9 am;

Where: St. John's

Knitters and crocheters create Confirmation stoles, baptismal blankets, and prayer shawls. Come when you can; leave when you must!

Mary Breakfast Bunch

Facilitator: Jackie Knauff

Meets: 1st Tuesday of every month at 8:30am

Where: Cracker Barrel, Lakeville

Mary Breakfast Bunch is a women's fellowship group open to all women.

Hannah Women's Study Small Group

Facilitator: Ruth Weber

Meets: 1st Wednesday of every month at 9:30 am from September through June.

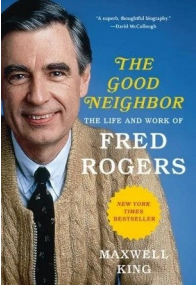
We will meet next on September 2

Where: St. John's

Women's Study is a fellowship group with treats, and open discussion open to all women.

Book Group

The book for the September session is:



“The Good Neighbor, The Life and Work of Fred Rogers” by Maxwell King

Meets September 9th at 1:00pm

The Good Neighbor, the first full-length biography of Fred Rogers, tells the story of this utterly unique and enduring American icon. Drawing on original interviews, oral histories, and archival documents, Maxwell King traces Rogers's personal, professional, and artistic life through decades of work.

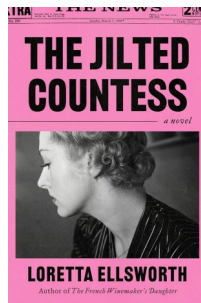
King explores Rogers's surprising decision to walk away from his show to make television for adults, only to return to the neighborhood with increasingly sophisticated episodes, written in collaboration with experts on childhood development. An engaging story, rich in detail, *The Good Neighbor* is the definitive portrait of a beloved figure, cherished by multiple generations.

Book Group Sign Up



The **November 11th** book is
“The Jilted Countess”
by Loretta Ellsworth

“But who are we, if we forget everything that came before?’ Roza wonders in ***The Jilted Countess***. This moving story of one woman finding a new life and new love in the aftermath of WWII answers this question, in the process taking on themes of PTSD, communism, and the plight of being an immigrant in postwar America.”—Meg Waite Clayton, internationally bestselling author of ***Typewriter Beach***



Yoga with Clarity

Lynn Coldren, Certified Yoga Instructor offers Yoga Classes.

Wednesday mornings AND Friday mornings at 8:45am, for ages 15+. You will need to bring your own mat and props. Class size is limited, so if you have any questions or are interested please email Lynn at l.coldren63@gmail.com.



Minimum class size is now three, so Lynn asks that you let her know the day before if you'll be attending. Because summer schedules get busy, we know that we will **NOT** meet on the following dates:

- August 12
- September 1–11

We will be back to our regular schedule of Wednesday and Friday mornings beginning September 16.

St. John's Prayer Chain Ministry

“Are you in need of prayer for yourself or for someone else? The St. John's Prayer Group would be happy to pray for you. Prayers can be requested by:

1. Calling the Church Office at (952) 469-4916
2. Emailing Stacy Stanek at sstanek06@gmail.com

If you would like to be part of St. John's Prayer Chain, new members to this team are welcome.

You can participate on an email team or on a phone team. Please contact Candy in the church office at 952-469-4916, if you would like to join the prayer chain team.



MomCo News

MomCo at St. John's — Good Company

Motherhood was never meant to be lived in isolation. We were created for connection, for shared life, for belonging in God's household. This year at MomCo, we're embracing Good Company — choosing real friendship over loneliness, presence over perfection, and community over going it alone.

In a world that leaves many moms feeling overwhelmed, burnt out, and unseen, MomCo is a place to slow down, show up, and be known. We're bringing back the kind of analog friendship that feels handwritten, genuine, and life-giving. Together, we practice being interruptible, choosing beauty, staying rooted in God's Word, and showing up for one another even when it's inconvenient — because that's where real connection is formed.

If you're longing for deeper friendships, encouragement, and a community that feels like family, we saved you a seat.

Our MomCo group meets on the **second and fourth Sundays of the month starting on September 13**, from 3:00–5:00 PM, and childcare is provided. All moms are welcome. Come join the good company. You can register through St. John's under "small groups."



Music News!

September 9, regular Choir Rehearsal begins again and YOU are INVITED!

At 7:15pm most Wednesdays, come and see what goes on as we prepare to lead music for Sunday worship!

No experience necessary! Questions? Please contact Roxanne @ 715-864-1983 or roxanne@sjlcl.org.

Are you interested in helping to lead music for our Wednesday Restorative Worship? At 6:30pm most Wednesdays, St. John's gathers for a half hour worship that includes several pieces of music led by piano, guitar, drums and Singers. **All musicians will meet on Wednesday, September 16 at 5:30 for a final rehearsal and directions as Restorative Worship begins again that evening.** All music and training will be available before that date. Questions? Please contact Roxanne and she can help you with everything including visiting with those involved to see what it's really like!



Roxanne Litchfield
Music Director

Really interested in being involved in music, but unsure how? Come to our **CHOIR**

OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday, September 30 @7:15pm. We plan to meet in the Sanctuary for a regular rehearsal; you are welcome to join, just watch, take notes, laugh along...

Seriously, you want to be a part of this group! *It's a great opportunity to connect with others in a loving, joyful community, to grow your faith through music and to be an important part of worship!* **Several folk have said, "It's one of the best parts of my week!" Join Us!**

Do you play an instrument? Singing is not your thing? Willing to play for worship? We want to know! Please contact Roxanne @ 715-864-1983.

Children, Youth and Family News



Amanda Boe
Children, Youth
and Family Director

Mark your calendars for upcoming events in our Children, Youth and Family Programs:

Sept 9 Affirm and Ablaze Orientation

Sept 13 Rally Sunday

Sept 16 Affirm/Ablaze/ Bonfires/Worship/Meal/
Choirs/HS Youth Group

Sept 20 First Day of Sunday School

October 25 Trunk and Treat

2026 - 2027 Children, Youth and Family Program Descriptions

Sunday Schedule for worship and Education Hour

- 8:30am-11:30am nursery staffed
- 8:30am Worship
- 9:30am Sunday School
- 10:30am Worship

Wednesday Schedule for Affirm, Ablaze, Highlights, Choirs and Youth Group

- 5:30pm-6:45pm Meal
- 5:30pm Elementary Choir
- 6:00pm Highlights Sunday School
- 6:00pm Middle School Choir
- 6:30pm-7:00pm Worship
- 7:00pm-8:00pm Affirm (Confirmation) Ablaze and Adult Choir
- 8:00pm-8:45pm Youth Group

Sunday School

Ages: Preschool-4th grade

Sundays 9:30am-10:15am or

Wednesdays 6:00-6:30pm

Sunday School: Join us as we dive into the Bible for some amazing adventures! We begin each day in our large group with Bible Camp Songs led by our Children's Music Director, Malynnda Riehle. We have special visits from our amazing puppet duo Abel and Zabel. Following our large group, we go to our classrooms and learn more about the Bible Story and engage in fun activities, crafts and games that connect to our story.

Sunday School Highlights

Ages: Preschool-4th grade

Wednesdays-6:00pm-6:30pm

Sunday School Highlights: Life is wonderfully busy! Sometimes Sundays don't work for families, maybe it is just a few weeks or for the entire calendar year. A Wednesday night option hopes to give the opportunity for all of our students to connect with their church friends and learn about the Bible story every week. All are welcome to join us for our Sunday School Highlights program on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm. Please register for this program using the Sunday School registration link no additional registration is needed.

Sunday School Registration Form



Ablaze: Pre-confirmation program 5th grade students

Wednesday nights 7:00pm-8:00pm

Ablaze was created to form a transitional bridge from Sunday School to our confirmation program, Affirm.

The program goals for Ablaze are to prep students for confirmation by reviewing key points of the Bible. We start around the campfire for the first five weeks reviewing the Old Testament, then we move indoors with a large group/small group model. In spring, we focus on preparing students to receive their Rite of First Communion.



Ablaze Registration Form

Affirm: Confirmation Ministry for 6-9th Graders

Wednesday nights 7:00pm-8:00 pm

In Affirm, we believe that each person is a child of God, with faith given as a gift from God. In Affirm, we build relationships in small groups, where each person can show up and be their true self, ask their real questions, and grow in faith together. Affirm operates on a four-year cycle, specifically oriented to deepening the life of faith, so that each youth can 1) Explore their identity, belonging and purpose in Christ, 2) Understand the purpose and arc of scripture, and 3) Learn the core ideas of the Lutheran tradition.

Grade 9 becomes a capstone year, emphasizing discovering each one's self, faith and gifts for service, culminating in Affirmation Sunday, when 9th graders affirm their baptismal promises surrounded by family, friends, and our faith community. Each Affirm year includes small group lessons, service projects, fellowship bonfires, Lenten practices, and Family Milestones.

Affirm Registration Form



Elementary and Middle School Choirs

JAM Choir (Jesus and Me) is for students who love to sing, K through 4th grade and meet Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 6:00pm We will sing one Sunday of every month during a worship service!

The Middle School Choir (Fly) is for 5th through 8th Grade (or older if you want!) we meet on Wednesdays from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. We will sing and lead worship one Wednesday every month!

Do you play an instrument and want to be involved with the choir, but not sing, GREAT! We would love for you to join us and play instrumental parts with our choir!! If you have ANY questions, please reach out to Malynda Riehle! You can connect with her on Sundays, or email her at malynda@sjlcl.org

Choir Registration Form



Teachers/Guides needed for 26-27

Could you be a teacher or a guide for one of our education programs? Sign up here!

Nursery Care

Children, Youth and Family ministries at St John's strives to create a seamless line of ministry from birth through high school and to walk alongside families to raise compassionate, respectful, and service-orientated children – with hearts of faith-filled love.

Our nursery is part of that promised mission to walk alongside families. We believe that caring for children in a safe, nurturing environment of the nursery is essential in order for parents to tend to their own spiritual care. As a part of that journey we encourage and support parents to participate in choir, teaching, mentoring, Adult Ed Classes (ACE) Bible Studies, and worship. Children are always welcome in worship yet we realize there are times when nursery care may be a better option for your family.

When you bring your children to the nursery, they will be safely in the care of St. John's Nursery Paid Staff who are: high school juniors and seniors who are trained in CPR & First Aid, familiar with basic child development, and have passed a background check. Parents need to stay in the building while your child(ren) are utilizing the nursery and you need to provide your contact information



ELCA Youth Gathering Imagine More June 28- July 2 2027

The ministry of the Gathering seeks to remind young people that God is already at work in them for the sake of the whole world. Often there are pressures and fears that limit their sense of worth and their ability to change the world. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit, God invites young people to imagine more, immeasurably more, for their own lives, the city of Minneapolis, the body of Christ and the life of the world.

Will you imagine more with us in Minneapolis?

June 28- July 2 2027

Who? Youth completing 8th grade in spring of 2027 through High School Seniors in 2027. Cost-Fundraising will be required for all participants, more information regarding final costs will be released before the **registration deadline of Oct 21, 2026.**

Please complete interest form



Summer in Review:

This summer at St. John's has been filled with fun, spiritual growth, and wonderful opportunities for our youth to develop as leaders! We are so grateful for the many ways St. John's supported our youth in serving and loving our neighbors, both near and far.

Our Summer Stretch program involved 39 upper elementary and middle school students who dedicated their time to serving at Arc Value Village, the Pan-O-Prog ice cream social, Highview Hills, and Feed My Starving Children. Beyond service, they also enjoyed exciting adventures at Cascade Bay!

This year's Mission Trip to Nashville, facilitated by Serve Boldly, a ministry of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. Our group of 29, including 23 youth and 6 chaperones will be working on daily food distribution, providing hot meals and groceries to those in need. Please keep this group and those they will be serving in your prayers Aug. 2-Aug 6

Additionally, 53 Luther Crest Bible camp adventurers attended camp over three separate weeks, participating in eight different programs. Our younger elementary campers experienced an overnight stay with a parent, while many middle school and elementary campers who stayed for a half or full week learned exciting new ways to be brave and courageous in their faith. Our high school students even served as counselors in training, gaining valuable leadership skills.

Thank you, St. John's community, for your unwavering support of these summer program participants through your prayers and crucial financial contributions, which made all of these experiences possible.

To learn more about our summer adventures, please join us for our youth-led worship services on September 20th!

A few of the summer highlights are featured in the photos on the next page!

Summer Highlights!



Trunk and Treat 2026!



[Sign up to host a trunk:](#)

General Information

Thrivent

Action Team Cards have been a wonderful resource for our congregation. Action Team Cards are \$250.00 gift cards that any Thrivent member has access to and they can be used for a service project or to support a fundraiser. For example, they have been used to cover the food costs of our Lent Youth Meals and Pancake Breakfasts so that all of the money raised can go directly to the youth working the event. The cards also make many of our service projects possible: we have used them to purchase fleece to make blankets, food for emergency food kits, pantry items for Lewis House, food kits for La Vina, and supplies to make sandwiches for many organizations in our community.

From January-June we have used \$2,500.00 in Thrivent Action Team Cards to support our Children, Youth and Family programs' fundraisers and service projects.

\$1250.00 of those Thrivent cards used for fundraisers helped raise \$4,447.00 to assist many of our youth attend Luther Crest Bible Camp and 23 youth attend the Nashville Mission Trip this year. Camp and Mission Trip average cost per participant is \$850.00 per week. This year, through all our fundraisers—including Butter Braids, meals and our bake sale—we raised \$11,463.00, Thrivent made a big difference in making those fundraisers successful!

Please contact Jenni Tange, jennifer.tange@hotmail.com - Children, youth and family teams Thrivent Card coordinator or Amanda Boe, amanda@sjlcl.org to learn more about Children and Youth opportunities that could benefit from Thrivent Cards.

thrivent[®]



LAKEVILLE AREA MUTUAL AID

Carrying the Load Together

LAMA

BACKGROUND

Lakeville Area Mutual Aid was recently formed when a group of organizations, non-profits, individuals, and faith communities saw a need for a group to help in emergent situations.

VALUES

We value EVERY member of our area community. We want no family to feel that they have fallen through the cracks and have no where to turn.

GOALS

Our mission is to help those who find themselves in times of need that other organizations may miss. As needs are uncovered within our Lakeville area, we will step in, look in our network, and find a way to help fill those needs.

HAVE A NEED?

Are you a family in need? Do you know of a family in need? Use the following [QR code](#) to link to a form that can be filled out to let us know how we can help.



WANT TO HELP?

Does this sound like something you would want to be a part of? Do you just want to find out more? Use this [QR code](#) to sign up as a volunteer.



WANT TO DONATE?

Does this speak to you, but maybe you don't have the time to volunteer right now? Use this [QR code](#) to be linked to a place that you can donate to help us take care of those in need.



Gratitude and Generosity Team News

Fall Stewardship Appeal *Coming this October-November!*

This October and November, you will be invited to consider your financial commitment to St. John's for 2027. As you do, you'll hear passionate Temple Talks in worship, read statistics about financial support in worship bulletins, and receive letters (or emails) that invite you to participate in exciting new ministry initiatives for 2027. These initiatives will be built into the proposed 2027 budget, because they are key aspects of what God is calling us to in the year ahead. And you get to be part of making it happen!

For now, please **mark your calendars for October 4 - November 8**, when the Gratitude & Generosity Team will unveil this year's Stewardship Appeal theme. Stay tuned! We are excited to invite you to join in as sustaining supporters of where God is calling St. John's to grow our ministry in 2027!

Notes from the Finance Office

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Ministry Finance Team Financial Summary as of May 2026

Financial Summary

General Fund Results	Month	Year to date
Revenue	\$62,868	\$269,488
Expenses	<u>\$51,577</u>	<u>\$271,090</u>
Net Change	<u>\$11,291</u>	<u>\$ (1,602)</u>

Building Fund Results

Revenue	\$13,995	\$ 48,935
Expenses	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 40,376</u>
Net Change	<u>\$13,995</u>	<u>\$ 8,559</u>

Benevolence Fund Results

Revenue	\$ 4,473	\$ 28,450
Distributions	<u>\$ 6,452</u>	<u>\$ 19,158</u>
Net Change	<u>\$(1,979)</u>	<u>\$ 9,292</u>

Explanatory Notes

- General Fund (GF) revenue surpassed the budget amount. GF expenses were below budget, mainly due to Campus Property lower than budget, resulting in a surplus of \$11,291. Year-to-date, the GF cash balance has decreased by \$1,602, a distinct improvement from the February YTD cash decrease
- The Building Fund improved in May. The mortgage has matured. The balance is being funded through the Mission Investment Fund
- The Benevolence Fund performed well in May and year-to-date 2026. All Benevolence revenues will be distributed during the year to charitable organizations or designated by the Gratitude & Generosity Team

Altar Flower Sponsorship

Reserve a date to sponsor Altar flowers. Each bouquet is \$45 and you can choose one or two bouquets per Sunday. Please review the available slots in the QR code and sign up. Or call the church office and place your order with Candy. Thank you!



Tithe.ly - Did you know?

1. Has Auto-recurring giving.
2. Kindly, choose the option to cover the credit card fees so St. John's receives 100% of your gift.
3. There are 4 ways to give with Tithe.ly:
 - Give on the church website. Click on "Give"
 - Give online - go to [Tithe.ly/Give](https://tithe.ly/give).
 - Give with the Tithe.ly App. Want to give to your church using the convenience of your smartphone? No problem! Download the Tithe.ly App from the **App Store** or **Google Play Store**. Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate your church and tap "Give Now" to complete your gift!
 - Text to Give – 218-210-7853. On your smartphone send a text to this number and in the message type in "Text to Give". You will receive a link to set up text giving!
4. Contact Tyra (tyra@sjlcl.org) or 952-469-6322.



Pink Envelope Donations:

Did you know that Pink Envelopes are part of St. John's Benevolence Program?

St. John's gives 8% of all offerings to our benevolence programs that support the many programs of our Global Mission outreach, Local Outreach, & the Saint Paul Synod of the ELCA. Pink envelopes are an additional benevolence program that is **above and beyond** members offerings.

The pink envelopes in **July and August** support the 2028 Tanzania Traveler's Fund. The pink Envelopes in **September and October** support Armful of Love. Contact the church office with any questions on these programs.



Membership and Outreach Team News

2026 Fall Welcome Lunch

New to St. John's? Please join us on **Sunday, November 15th at 11:45 am for our Fall Welcome Lunch** after worship inviting people who are interested in learning more about St. John's and what we have to offer.

It's a lovely lunch gathering where new to us people come to ask questions and meet some of the staff. There will be new bibles given to those who are new to Sunday School and youth programs.

On the following **Sunday, November 22**, new members will officially be welcomed into the membership at St. John's. We are so happy to see our membership grow and welcome these new members. It's a good reminder to all of us that if you see someone who is new to you, be sure you meet them and help them feel welcome. You never know when you will meet a new friend.

WELCOME



RSVP for
Lunch



Scan here to view the New Member Form



Fall 2026 Newsletter
20165 Heath Ave
Lakeville, MN 55044

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 5
LAKEVILLE MN